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March 7, 2011

Co-Chair Edward Meyer
Co-Chair Richard Roy
Senator Andrew Roraback
Representative Clark Chapin

Environment Committee Members:

My name is Abner Burgos-Rodriguez, I work for a family owned gasoline and heating oil marketer located in Bridgeport. I am here today in support S.B. 1113, AN ACT ESTABLISHING A CONNECTICUT COMMERCIAL TANK INSURANCE ACCOUNT.

The Tank Fund ensures that leaking underground storage tanks are addressed to prevent contamination of ground water. The revenues' from the Gross Earnings Tax (GET) used to fund the Tank Program are more than ample to maintain the current funding level of this program. In fact, over the last six years this programs funding has been cut by almost 80% with the most recent cut coming last session.

Further cuts threaten the Tank Program's Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) certification. That means that the 1,400 Connecticut businesses (most of which are mom and pop's) that rely on the Tank Program to meet EPA's requirements would be out of compliance resulting in potential gas station closings, increased cost of gasoline and loss of jobs. Not to mention that several contaminated properties would go un-remediated.

The Tank Program is an investment that returns good jobs, competitive gas prices, tax revenue and a clean environment. The cuts that the Tank Program has endured threaten all of the good that it has provided Connecticut's economy, environment, businesses and citizens.

S.B. 1113 creates new funding without demanding revenue from the states existing budget.

I ask that you support S.B. 1113, AN ACT ESTABLISHING A CONNECTICUT COMMERCIAL TANK INSURANCE ACCOUNT.

If you have any questions I would be happy to address them.

Thank you.

Respectfully,

Abner Burgos-Rodriguez
Marketing Manager
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